We Claim:

1.   A method for populating a website membership database and providing access by a website user to a plurality of associated information areas, the method comprising:

5   providing at least a first information area having information that is personal to a member user;

providing at least one other information area having information overlying the first information area;

facilitating invitations from the member user to a non-member user, the non-
10   member user thereafter choosing to become a new member;

determining an access level of the new member based upon their relationship status with the member user, whereby the membership database is thereby populated with known members of a community; and

allowing access to certain of the information areas based upon the access level of
15   the member user.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the information areas are community information areas which are inter-related according to a topical area of interest for the particular community of member users.

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3.   The method of Claim 2, wherein the topical area of interest includes at least sports activities.

4.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of facilitating invitations
25   includes using a messaging center.

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5.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the access level is assigned an identifier for reference in determining whether a user can access certain information.

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6.   The method of Claim 5, wherein the identifier includes an identification code.

7.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the determining step includes a central administrator accepting or rejecting the membership of any new member.

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8.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the facilitating invitations step includes a central administrator accepting or rejecting the invitation to any new member.

9.   The method of Claim 2, wherein the first community information area includes a home page of a member user.

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10.   The method of Claim 9, wherein the at least one other community information area includes a group information area of groups to which the member user belongs.

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11.   The method of Claim 10, wherein the at least one other community information area further includes an organizational information area having organizations to which the groups belong.

12.   A method for providing selective access to information areas that represent shared community information areas on a website structure, the website structure having a registration database of members, the database being populated by persons with a known relationship to existing members, the method comprising:

assigning a personal information area to each registered member;

configuring at least one other community information area with information that overlays the personal information area;

registering new members based upon a known relationship with existing members;

assigning an access level to each new user based upon this known relationship; and

providing access to the information areas based upon the assigned access level.

13.   The method of Claim 12, wherein the information within the information areas is shared by members of a certain community.

14.   The method of Claim 13, wherein the known relationship includes a family relationship.

15.   The method of Claim 13, wherein the known relationship includes an established friendship.

16.   The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of assigning an access level includes assigning an access identifier.

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17.   The method of Claim 16, wherein the access identifier includes an identifier code.

18.   The method of Claim 12, wherein the registering step includes existing members sending out an invitation to non-registered members.

19.   The method of Claim 18, wherein the registering step further includes a central administrator that might accept or reject the invitation to the non-registered member.

20.   The method of Claim 12, wherein the personal information area for each member includes a home page.

21.   The method of Claim 20, wherein the at least one other community information area includes group information pertaining to those groups to which the member belongs.

22.   The method of Claim 21, wherein the at least one other community information area further includes organizational information pertaining to those organizations to which the groups belong.

23.   A method of structuring and populating a website having a registration database of registered members and at least two layers of inter-related community information areas, the method comprising:

       providing a first level of access to a first layer of community information;

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providing at least a second level of access to at least a second layer of community information that overlies the first layer;

enabling a registered member to send out invitations to a non-registered member to become a registered member,

5   whereby the first level of access is provided to each registered member, and the at least second level of access is dependant upon the relationship between the registered member and the invited non-registered member.

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